

F41

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for preparing nanoparticles coated with magnetic metal oxide selected from the group consisting of magnetic iron oxides and ferrite, comprising the following steps in the sequence set forth:

whereas the iron oxide

a) Contacting an aqueous solution containing a soluble polymeric metal chelating agent with a first amount of one or more soluble metal salts providing metal ions, wherein at least one of said metal ions is capable of forming an oxide which is magnetic, said metal ions being in amounts which do not exceed substantially the binding capacity of said chelating agent;

is this iron oxide

b) Causing said metal ions to be present in the oxidation states required for the formation of the oxide which is magnetic;

c) Maintaining the pH of the solution at the range of at least 7;

d) Introducing into the solution ~~additional~~ a second amount of said metal salts;

e) Causing said ~~additional~~ second amount of metal ions to be present in the oxidation states required for the formation of the oxide which is magnetic;

f) Maintaining the pH of the solution at the range of at least 7;

g) Successively repeating the operations of step d) to f) ~~as many times as required to obtain monodispersed nanoparticles coated with magnetic metal oxide.~~